



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU REMINDS MARINERS,
MANUFACTURERS, AND RETAILERS THAT HANDHELD, PORTABLE DSC RADIOS
APPROVED UNDER PRIOR TECHNICAL STANDARD MAY NOT BE MANUFACTURED,
IMPORTED, OR SOLD AS OF MARCH 25, 2015**

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau reminds mariners, manufacturers, and retailers that handheld, portable digital selective calling (DSC) equipment built to RTCM Standard SC-101 may no longer be manufactured, imported, or sold, beginning March 25, 2015. As of that date, the Commission's Rules will prohibit the manufacture, importation, and sale of handheld, portable DSC radios that do not meet the requirements of International Telecommunication Union (ITU-R) Recommendation M.493-13, and, in the case of Class D VHF DSC equipment only, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) International Standard 62238.¹ Any such radio that is sold prior to March 25, 2015, however, may continue to be used.

Compliance with these new technical standards will ensure that DSC-equipped radios incorporate many new safety features and functions,² and will eliminate the dangers associated with the automatic channel switching feature on some current models of DSC-equipped radios.³

For further information, contact Ghassan Khalek of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-2771, TTY (202) 418-7233, or via email to Ghassan.Khalek@fcc.gov.

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¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 80.225(a)(5).

² The new features also include provisions for making test calls, dual receiver functionality to improve operation, and Global Positioning System interconnection alarms designed to ensure that distress alerts include a valid and accurate position. DSC equipment meeting the new requirements will provide improved detection of distress alerts, a reduced rate of false alarms, and a reduction in incessant alarming. See Amendment of Parts 13 and 80 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Maritime Communications, *Memorandum Opinion and Order, Third Report and Order, and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, WT Docket No. 00-48 & PR Docket No. 92-257, 21 FCC Rcd 10282, 10298-10300 ¶¶ 27-29 (2006).

³ See <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/SA0210.pdf>.